

HERRING FAMILY

DRAWER 1

VIRGINIA RELATIVES

71.2009.085.05390

Thomas Lincoln Family

Virginia Relatives
Herring Family

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Gering, Nebraska
July 12, 1938

Dr. Lewis A. Warren,
Director of the Lincoln National Foundation
Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Doctor Warren:

An item in the Philadelphia Inquirer, with date
line July 9, Memphis, Tenn. (UP) caught my attention.

I have long been interested in the Lincoln family as they are connected with ours. However, as my people, the Chrisman family who emigrated from Rockingham County, Virginia to Waverley, Lafayette County, Missouri in the spring of 1837, have never acknowledged or rather mentioned the relationship to Lincoln. Being southern sympathizers they felt that Lincoln, the President was a traitor to the south from which his people sprung. However, anti-slave teachings were prominent in his home life as both Tom Lincoln and his wife Nancy were against slavery. I don't know where Tom Lincoln got it. There is some belief that his Mother, Bathsheba Herring Lincoln turned against the idea of slavery. Capt. Jacob Lincoln, the brother of Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president, was a slave owner. Some say the first to keep slaves in the Linville neighborhood.

Perhaps you know much of the history of the Lincoln and Herring families. I have a great deal of it in my files, I have a copy of the deed signed by Abrm. and "Batsab" Lincoln when they sold their land and left Virginia for Kentucky. Dan'l. Boone is said to have been the one who roused their enthusiasm over Kentucky. Bathsheba (Batsab) Herring came from an aristocratic family. The Herring coat of arms is shown in the book written by Herring Chrisman.. "Memoirs of Lincoln." Herring Chrisman was a cousin of Abraham Lincoln the president, but I'll not go into detail. Elizabeth Lincoln, daughter of Capt. Jacob Lincoln of Linville, married Joseph Chrisman also of Linville Creek about 1822. She was born in 1803 and died in 1824 shortly after the birth of her little son John Lincoln Chrisman. Joseph Chrisman was my great-grandfather. I have two of Elizabeth Lincoln's books "The Mountaineer" published by Ananias Davisson of Harrisonburg, Va. in 1818. and "Letters on the Improvement of the Mind addressed to a Young Lady" by Mrs. Champone printed at Hagerstown Maryland in 1819. On the flyleaf is written "Elizabeth Lincoln, her book..Linville Creek 1820." in her handwriting.

The Herrings, Lincolns and Chrisman families lived on Linville Creek near Edom, south of Singers & Glen. I have pictures of the Lincoln Homestead and the Lincoln Graveyard. I visited this section in 1936.

The book "The Prairie President by Raymond Warren contains a number of errors concerning the Lincoln family and Abraham Lincoln's grandmother, Bathsheba Lincoln, whom he refers to as "Bathshebbly" Her little pet nickname which she signed to the deed was "Batsab".

William Chrisman of Mapleton, Ia. son of Herring

Mr. Donald W. Tamm
Three Times Indiana

Dear Sir:

July 15, 1938

I have received a copy of your letter dated July 14, 1938, and am sorry that I cannot reply to you more quickly. I am sure that you will find the information in the enclosed bulletin very interesting and I am sure that you will find it very valuable.

Estelle Chrisman Laughlin

815 Penna. Street

Gering, Nebraska

I am sure that you will find the information in the enclosed bulletin very interesting and I am sure that you will find it very valuable.

My dear Madam:

I have your very interesting letter before me and possibly you might like to have the enclosed bulletin carrying the names of Lincoln's relatives.

I am also taking the liberty of enclosing a brief announcement of a new bulletin or magazine which we intend to issue monthly, and which comes from the press next week for the first time. I am sure that in the not very distant future we will wish to have a complete edition on Lincoln's Grandmother, Bathsheba Lincoln.

We are quite familiar with the Chrisman book and the personal acquaintance with the author, Mr. Chrisman.

If you have any information about the current family other than that which appears in Mr. Chrisman's book, we should like very much to have you advise us.

Yours very truly,

LAW:EB
Enc.(2)

Director

February 15, 1938

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Gering, Nebraska
August 7, 1938

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne Indiana.

Dear Sir:

I had copied a number of notes for you but failed to make a copy of the same. I decided then to make a copy and so kept the original. To date I have not had the opportunity. Will you kindly take such information as you desire from the enclosed letter dated August 7, 1938 and return the same or copy to me?

I would retain this longer to make copy but note that you state you need the Herring information by middle of next week.

I also waited until I had visited Bettie and Joe Andy Chrisman, grandchildren of Elizabeth Lincoln Chrisman who live near Moccasin, Montana. However, Miss Bettie Chrisman who was born in 1861 stated that other than her parents birthdates she had little to offer you more than I can give you. She is a very bright, alert and intelligent old lady and she said " There are none of our family members who have done anything illustrious, so why should we be listed as relatives of so great a man as Abraham Lincoln. I do not wish to bask in his reflected glory. I think he was truly a great man. My father felt very much that he was a traitor to his own people and refused to use the name " Lincoln" which was given him at birth by his mother, Elizabeth Lincoln, the daughter of Capt. Jacob Lincoln and Dorcas Robinson. He was named for his ^{great} grandfather John Lincoln who emigrated to the Shenandoah Valley and for his other grandfather John Chrisman, the son of Captain George Chrisman. Both of his grandfathers served in the Revolution. He was given his mother's maiden name, Lincoln as a second name. He used this name until the time of the War Between the States when he refused longer to use it. "

This bright, brown eyed little lady told of an incident when she was teaching in the Hawthorne School in Bozeman in 1909...the year of the Lincoln centennial celebration. She said there was a great deal of conjecture as to whether she would comply and co-operate with the school in honoring Lincoln. She was known as a " Rebel sympathizer" She said no one knew that she was any kin to Lincoln and her family acknowledged no kinship. She said, "personally, I felt an admiration for Abe Lincoln....a backwoods boy who could rise to such prominence and who showed himself to be a man of great heart and intelligence. My pupils asked me many questions but I kept very quiet about any plans for joining in the celebration. There were rumors that the School Board members planned to visit me and make known their attitude toward my "refusal" to join in the celebration plans". She had however, coached some of her pupils with recitations and other arrangements were made for joining in the February 12th celebration. The day came and she had her black-

board decorated with the American flag, the Lincoln log cabin birth-place and other suitable decorations for the day.

She surprised the whole school with her program numbers and her co-operation, and the members of the board came to her and congratulated her upon her co-operation. She told them then that she had a great admiration for the man Lincoln, but not once did she hint that she herself was kin of the great man.

I think this rather an interesting little story. Could you have heard her tell it, you would have enjoyed it.

Many of her pupils still write to the old lady and this makes her days brighter. She is very frail and has made all plans for "moving to a new Home". She and her brother, Joe Andy discuss it quite simply. She is "working off" her books, silver, pictures and other treasures accumulated since her grandmother, Lincoln's time, on friends and relatives. There are no descendants in her own family. Of the family of five children of John Lincoln Chrisman and Belle Keith, but one, Sallie, married. She died when her son was but two years old and he was raised by his two aunts, Belle and Bettie and his uncles Paul and Jo Andy. Belle and Paul have both passed on. Only the two Bettie and Jo Andy remain. She said "We are the last leaves on the tree."

It is very pathetic to see these old people, so frail and so alone. Jo Andy is 70, and Bettie is now 77, for she said "I was born in '61, figure it out." She joked about the neighbors being so curious about her advanced age...and she jokingly said to a hired man "Don't you think me bright to be able to read without glasses when I am in my eighties?" He took it quite seriously and she said it is the wonder of the neighborhood that she has her own teeth, does her work and read without glasses when she is 'up in her eighties'.

Upon my last visit she gave me an old copper bound edged Presbyterian Hymn book, that belonged to her grandmother...it was of the time when a leader led in the singing and gave them the meter. She also gave me the Works of Flavius Josephus published in 1833 and various other books belonging to her father and grandmother, Lincoln.

I am sorry I cannot give you the date of the birth or death of Bathsheba Herring Lincoln. I have written to William Chrisman of Mapleton but he has no further data. I have on hand the book the Prairie President by Raymond Warren and while there are many inaccuracies in it, and much of it is pure fiction, yet he has a good many dates which appear authentic. I have not had sufficient time to go entirely through it for the possible date of Lincoln's grandmother's death but believe it is mentioned in that book. He calls her "Bathsheby" That is silly as she signed her name "Batsab" a nickname among her family. The only information I have is that she died sometime in 1794 or 1795. She never returned to Virginia but lived her remaining years in Kentucky. Can't you find that date in Washington County, Kentucky where she made her home with her daughter Nancy Brumfield. She had lived in Nelson County at the time of her husband's death.....also in Jefferson County where they owned land.

Mrs. Charles Franks of Mt. Clinton, Virginia lives in the home of Major George Chrisman who wrote much of the family history and she might

have access to papers which would give more information about the Herring family as she is a descendant of the George Harrison Chrisman and Martha D.Herring line.

These people are interested in the " family" and have been very kind to me when visiting there and have sent me information from time to time.

I believe they will co-operate with you, but of course it will be too late for your article on the Herrings.

Will you advise me where I may secure a copy of this article?

Very truly yours,

Estelle Harrison Langhlin

*Please return this when
finished - or a copy, as I have
none*

Gering, Nebraska
August 7, 1938

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

Your letter in regard to the Chrisman and Herring relatives of Abraham Lincoln has been received.

Regarding Batsheba Herring. My information, for the most part comes from Memoirs of Lincoln by Herring Chrisman. However, I have found the following in our own family history written by Major George Chrisman who organized Boy Company of Cavalry in Virginia in 1864 and lived near Mt. Clinton or at what was Chrisman Post Office. Chrisman's Infantry was formed prior to the Civil War by this same man who was then a Captain but later became a major. He organized the Rockingham County Historical Society in 1898 and they would undoubtedly have something about Batsheba Herring.

" George Harrison Chrisman married Martha D. Herring, daughter of Alexander Herring, son of William Herring of Light Horse Harry Lee's Cavalry, and great, grand-daughter of Lord Benjamin Herring of England. He had three uncles in Gen. Morgan's riflemen of the Revolution. (Note: The William Herring mentioned here was a brother of Batsheba Herring, so I have always understood from our records and those of Herring Chrisman) This goes on to say: " George Harrison Chrisman and Martha D. Herring Chrisman had six children: Herring (who wrote Memoirs) Burke, Margaret Ann, George, William Joseph and Martha Gratton. Herring married Emma Berry and they had four children: Nathaniel who now lives in Minnesota or Wisconsin. William who lives at Mapleton, Iowa (1938) Charles and Virginia who lives in California.

This is another excerpt concerning the Lincoln's from the same.

" Joseph Chrisman, son of John Chrisman and Ann Harrison Chrisman, married Elizabeth Lincoln, second cousin of Abraham Lincoln, the president.. of Linville Creek. John Lincoln, the immigrant's son came from Pennsylvania bought a place below Wenger's Mill. The House was built in 1800 by Capt. Jacob Lincoln who was born 1751 and died 1822 and was buried in the Lincoln graveyard on the hill. John Lincoln's children were: Abraham, John, Jacob, Thomas and Isaac. Jacob (Capt in Rev. and father of Elizabeth) remained in Virginia. Abraham married Batsab Herring and moved to Kentucky about 1781 or 82. When Thomas was- son of Abraham was about 31 Abraham Lincoln, later President of the United States was born in Ky. *Byan*

This is another excerpt copied from "Settlers on the Long Gray Trail" by J. Huston Harrison of Alexandria, Va.

Authorities are not in exact agreement about the date of Thos. Lincoln's birth. Lea and Hutchinson record it as Jan. 20 1780 while more recent authors record it Jan. 5 1778. On the 12th of Feb. 1780 "Abraham Lincoln of the County of Rockingham and State of Va. and Batsheba his wife" for 5000 pounds current money of Virginia deeded to Michael Shanks & John Reuf of the County and State aforesaid" 250 a. part of 1200 granted by McKay Hite et al. lying north side of Linville Creek... etc.

Witnesses: Charles Lair
Soloman Mathews

(Signed) Abm. Lincoln

George Chrisman (Note. Capt. Geo. Chrisman, Rev.) Batsab Lincoln

This deed " from Abraham Lincoln & Bersheba his wife" was proven 26th of June 1780 by the oaths of Charles Mair and George Chrisman and by the solemn affirmation" of Soloman Mathews. Abraham's next record is found in Ky. on Mar. 4 1780 he had secured 3 warrents for land totalling 1200 a. In 1782 Josiah Davison, as surety signed the marriage bond of Andrew Shanklin to Marry Abigail Herring, daughter of Alex. Herring Jr. This Alexander was a brother of Leonard Herring. Davison was about a year older than Capt. Lincoln, His first wife was Edith Herring. Edith, so Davisons have it, was a sister of Pres. Lincoln's grandmother, Capt. Abraham Lincoln's wife. "

In the Memoirs of Lincoln by Herring Chrisman, he mentions having visited the house in which Bathsheba Herring and Capt. Abraham Lincoln were married. The old residence, it is understood is yet standing on Linville Creek. From this it seems likely that she was married at the home of her brother Leonard, and perhaps it was also here she met Capt. Lincoln.

From J. Huston Harrison's book " Following the sale of her husband's land in 1780 the deed was recorded without her examination or renunciation of dower. As she was unable to travel to County Court at Rockingham the commission reported back 1781. Her husband having acquired his land in Ky. returned for her and the children about that time or a little later (1782 says one authority) and removed to Kentucky. The administration of Abraham Lincoln's estate was granted in Nelson Co. Ky. Oct 14, 1788. His land was in Jefferson. Following his death, his widow removed to Washington Co. with her family where she was residing in 178- 1792. She died in 1836. Their children were: Mordecia b. 1771, died Dec. 1830. m. 1729 Mary Mudd who died about 1859. Removed to Howard Co. Indiana and then to Hancock Co Ill. about 1828.

Josiah b. 1773, d. Sept. 1835 m. Feb. 28 1801, Catherine Barlow, dau. of Christopher Barlow. Removed to Harrison Co. Ind.

Mary, m. Aug. 5, 1801 Ralph Crume of Ky. (There is a Mr. Crume living at Shelbyville Ky. connected with the Goodyear Tire co)

Thomas b. Jan. 5- 5, 1778 died Jan. 17, 1851 near Janesville Ill. married first June 12, 1806 at Beechland Ky. Nancy Hanks b. ____ 1783-4 d. Oct. 5, 1818 near Gentry ville, Ind. granddaughter of Joseph and Nancy Ann Hanks. Thomas m. second Dec. 2 1819 at Elizabethtown, Ky. Sarah, nee Bush, the widow of Daniel Johnston. She was b. Dec. 13, 1788 d. Dec. 10, 1869 near Janesville, Ill. No children.

Children of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Sarah B. Feb. 10, 1807 d. 1828 m. 1826 Aaron Grigsby of Spencer Co. Ind.

Abraham, the President, b. Feb. 12, 1809 at Buffalo Hardin (now LaRue Co.) Ky. d. Apr. 15, 1865 m. Nov. 4, 1842 at Springfield Ill. Mary Todd dau of Robt. of Lexington, Ky.

Thomas b. 1811 died in infancy.

Nancy b. Mar. 25, 1780 d. Oct. 9, 1845 Hardin Co. Ky m. Jan 12, 1801 Wm. Brumfield. Capt. Jacob Lincoln, uncle of the President, resident of Linville Creek Va. was born Nov. 1751 d. Feb. 20, 1822. m. Dorcas Robinson b. Mar. 15, 1763 d. Jan. 25, 1840

Their daughter Elizabeth born about 1803, d. Jan. 4 1824. aged 20 years 4 months. She married Joseph Chrisman about 1822.

Issue of this marriage: John Lincoln Chrisman born about 1823. (The exact date may be obtained in a few days time)

In Memoirs of Lincoln, the author Herring Chrisman mentions that " he lived with John Lincoln Chrisman almost as a brother during their early years. They resembled each other in appearance. John Lincoln Chrisman was a rather small man, but with a fine expression. He was commonly called " Jack" by all who knew him. He was very well educated and was referred to by my father and his sisters and brothers as " a prince of a man." I have his pen and other keepsakes.

He married Belle Keith, and with their five children they emigrated from Waverley Missouri to Bozeman, Montana.

In 1837, his father Joseph Chrisman and his second wife, a cousin, Jane Chrisman, and their four children emigrated from Edom, Virginia in Rockingham County, Va. to Waverley, Missouri, in Rock-a-way carriages made by the Studebaker firm. Their negroes hauled the household goods and equipment in wagons. They came via Vincennes Indiana. He purchased Missouri land at \$1.25 an acre, and as his children grew up he gave each one 160 Acres of land and had the slaves under the supervision of his son, Joseph Marcus, build two story brick homes. Only one of these is still standing...Oakwood, owned by Claud Chrisman, three miles west of Waverley, Mo. The home which John Lincoln Chrisman owned is now owned by his half-brother Taylor's widow, Mrs. Mollie Steele of Waverley. She resides on it.

After the War Between the States, at which time the Joseph Chrisman family sided with the Confederacy, the Lincoln was dropped from Uncle Jack's name by him and he never again acknowledged it because of the bitter feeling he bore the president. It was only accidentally when I began searching through old records of the family that I found that Uncle Jack was only a half-brother to my grandfather, Joseph Marcus Chrisman. My father said they did not recognize the Lincoln kin. There is also a story that the Capt. Jacob Lincoln's were very aristocratic and did not like for their daughter Elizabeth to marry a son of an a neighboring German planter....namely Joseph Chrisman. There are other things that cause me to doubt this story as her father left her property and slaves. Africanus and Ann. Ann cared for the little motherless child, John Lincoln Chrisman until he was a big boy. There is this though when Dorcas Robinson Lincoln, mother of Elizabeth Lincoln died she cut off her grandson, John Lincoln Chrisman with only \$1.00 so that he could not break her will. I have this from his daughter Bettie Chrisman. However this may have been because he refused to bear the "Lincoln" name. It is very difficult to get anything in the way of information from these elderly cousins as the War Between the States is still a very real thing with them. Robert E. Lee's picture is a treasured article in their home. The old bitterness remains in their hearts. Because I prize the articles connected with the Lincoln family, they have been given to me. When I wrote Cousin Bettie one time I asked if her father's name was "John Lincoln Chrisman" and she replied, "John Chrisman," leave out the Lincoln, please."

To them Abraham Lincoln, the president, was a "black Republican" and a traitor to his own people.

he was Co.Treas. Gallatin Co.Mont
The children of John Lincoln Chrisman/and Belle Keith Chrisman are: died
Belle Kieth, now deceased. 1897
Mary Elizabeth, living at Moccasin Montana. She was County Superintendent
of Gallatin County, Mont. for a number of years.
Paul, died in 1937.

Joe Andy, living at Moccasin, Mont.

Sallie m. Richard Deane and lived at Bozeman and died there.

Issue: Howell Deane, died in 1931.

This line of the family will pass into oblivion when Cousin
Bettie who is now about 75 and Cousin Joe Andy who is about 71, pass on.

I have visited the Lincoln country near Linville Creek. As I understand it the Herrings came from England and were very aristocratic..they lived upcreek from the Lincoln's and the Chrisman's (my people) lived down nearer Edom and Mt.Clinton, in Rockingham County Va. In the old records of those who attended the schools, the Herring children's name are not given, but they may have been grown when they came there with their widowed father. Leonard and William were the son's name and Bathsheba the daughter's name.

This is given of John Lincoln's family in the Harrison book. Settlers on the Long Gray Trail: " Sons: Thomas, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and John and daughters, Hannah, Lydia, Sarah and Rebecca and a grand-daughter Hannah Bryan. Of the sons: Abraham b. May 13, 1744 in Berks Co. Pa. died May 1786 (Lea says) Administration granted Oct. 14, 1788 in Ky. Isaac B. Mar. 5, 1750 Berks Co. Pa. d. June 10, 1816 at Watauga Tenn. M. Mary Ward b. 1758 d. 1834 at Watauga Tenn. Jacob b. Nov. 18, 1751 according to his tombstone in Va. d. 20th Feb. 1822 m. Aug. 29, 1780 Dorcas Robinson, dau. of David and Dorcas Robinson b. Mar. 15, 1763 d. Jan. 25, 1840. ~~Jacob~~ Tombstones in old burial ground. John b. July 15, 1755, in Pa. d. July 13, 1835 at Lebanon Ohio. Removed about 1819 with " most of his children" to Ohio. (On June 2, 1810 he was residing in Shelby Co. Ky near Hinton (Rymel vs. Lincoln) m. June 27, 1782 Mary, his cousin. dau of Francis and Mary Yarnell of Berks Co. Pa. b. 1760 d. 1832 at Lebanon Ohio. Interred in Baptist Cemetery at Lebanon. Thomas b. October 23, 1761 d 1819 c. near Lexington Ky. m. September 23, 1782 to Elizabeth Casner. Of the daughters: Hannah, b. Mar 9, 1748 m. John Harrison, son of Zebulon son of John Sr. half brother of Alexander Herring's (the pioneer, father of Bathsheba) She died near Linville in Rockingham and her will was proven in this county, Dec. court 1803. Lydia, twin sister of Hannah was unmarried at the time of her father's will Either she or her sister Sarah married a Bryan kinsman of Ezekiel Harrison's wife. Sarah, b. Sept. 18, 1757 is said to have married a Deane. Rebecca b. April 18, 1767 d. 1840 near Greenville Tenn m. John Rymel. Among the subscribers to William Herron's school in 1790 were Hannah Harrison; two scholars, James Henton, four scholars, Reuben Harrison, four scholars and Josiah Harrison, one scholar, and in 1792, Jacob Lincoln Soloman Mathews, Cornelius Bryan, Thomas Bryan, Thos. Bryan, Sr. Davis Kaufman, George Chrisman, Dives (Davis) Bryan, John Bryan and Micheal Warm John Lincoln Jr. and his wife and sister Hannah Harrison were faithful members of the early Smiths and Linville's Creek Baptist church. John was clerk for many years***then a door was opened to hear experiences and Mary Lincoln (the wife of Jno. Lincoln offered, and gave a short but very satisfactory experience to the church and was received unanimously without a dissenting voice into the fellowship of the church." (From Old Church Book) Abraham Lincoln, later Capt. son of "Virginia John" and a brother of John of the above church married Bathsheba Herring. His marriage license was granted June 9, 1770 (Chalkley Vol. II) Unfortunately the women's names were not entered at that period. Nicolay and Hay, biographers have named Capt. Lincoln's wife as Mary Shipley, believing he married Bathsheba second, but later investigations prove that he had only one wife, Bathsheba Herring. Capt. Lincoln remained on his Linville Creek land until about 1780 and after the birth of his son Thomas, father of the president, He wrote a short biography for his old friend Hon. Jesse W. Fell and not for publication. " My parents were both born in Va. My paternal grandfather Abraham Lincoln emigrated from Rockingham County, Va. to Kentucky about 1781 or 2, when a year or two later, he was killed by Indians, not in battle but by stealth when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. My father, at the death, of his father, was but six years of age, and he literally grew up without education. (See full autobiography in Powers History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon Co. Ill, p. 457)

This is another excerpt from the same Harrison book is this:

" In central Shenandoah Valley the present County of Rockingham was settled by immigrants from particularly widely scattered regions. Here are found settlers from all the northern provinces, at least south of R.I. some from eastern Virginia, many from Ulster, Ireland, a few Germans, one or more from Scotland and even the capital of the British Empire was represented by the son of a Frenchman. Among those more or less intimately associated with the Harrison family were the Cravens, Herrings, Smith, Chrismans, Bryans, Davisons, Warrens, Stephensons, Shanklings, Matthews, Moores, Lincolns, Tallmans, Ewings, Dyers, McClures, Stewarts, McWilliams, Howards, Byrds, Wrights, Carpenters, Davises, Newmans, Thomases, Aldersons, Harts, Linvilles, Caldwelles, Hopikins, Whites, Seviars, and others.

One of the first communities in Rockingham was that on Linville Creek Joist Hite is said to have had a mill on this creek before 1742 which he rented that year to Thomas Linville. (This Joist Hite, the first settler who brought in colonists, was an ancestor of mine and of the Joseph Chrisman who married a Lincoln)

" Associated with the families of John and Jeremiah Harrison in this early church (Tinkling Spring) were various Lincolns. John Lincoln, the emigrant and native of New Jersey settled on Linville Creek. His son, Abraham married a daughter of Alexander Herring, and his daughter Hannah married a grandson of John Harrison of Big Spring. Another man still more noted in the history of the nation, who descended from an early settler of New Jersey and whose ancestors went from Monmouth Co. to Eastern Penn. and thence to the Valley of Virginia was Pres. Abraham Lincoln, one of whose ancestors was John Browne of Monmouth, Speaker of the House of Assembly more than 200 years ago. The founder of this family was Samuel Lincoln who came from Norwich (Norfolk Co. Eng. to Mass. He died 1690. He had a son Mordecai of Hingham (1657-1727) he in turn had sons Mordecai (2nd) b. 1686 d. 1736 and Abraham b. 1689 Isaac b. 1691 and a daughter Sarah b. 1694 Mordecai and Abraham moved to Monmouth Co. N.J. where the first married named Hannah Salter, grand-daughter of Capt. John Browne and his eldest son born was named John. About 1730 the Lincolns at Amity, Penna moved to eastern Penna. where Hannah Lincoln died. He married again. He died at Amity, Penna. His will mentions his wife Mary and children, John, Thomas, Hannah, Mary, Ann, Sarah, Mordecai b. 1730 and a " prospective child." The latter, Abraham, proved a boy, and married Ann Boone, a cousin of Daniel Boone. John Lincoln the eldest son, with some of his neighbors moved to Rockingham Co. Va. He had sons, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Thomas and John. John, the father died at Harrisonburg, Va. The original Lincoln land was purchased by John Lincoln June 22, 1768. " 600 A. part of 1200 granted to McKay, Duff, Green by Joist Hite by patent 26th March 1739. This land as disclosed in proceedings was conveyed by the above firm June 20, 1746 to Robt. McKay and by him devised to his sons, Zacharia, Moses, Robert & James by will 1746. The McKays in turn conveyed it to the Lincolns. 210 A. were later conveyed by John Lincoln to his son Abraham (the Capt.) by deed of gift 1773, and 200 a. part of the home plantation were given his son, Thoms. 1786. Thos. later sold his share to his brother Jacob in 1791. Thos. removed to Ky. about this time or the following year. John Lincoln's will a copy of which is filed in the proceedings name his wife, Rebecca Flowers Lincoln and sons Thomas, (this should precede the paragraph marked on

other side. I made a mistake in copying) Will you please send me the list of names of Lincoln kin and any other literature you may have to send those interested. I'll gladly answer any other questions you may ask. Please advise if I have supplied you with anything which you did not have and if so, please state what it is. I am hoping you may discover more about Batsheba Herring Lincoln with these notes. William Chrisman of Mapleton, Ia. could give you names of Herring kin in Virginia who may have records.

*Estelle Laughlin
Genius Niche*

*I have
this
now.*

September 9, 1938

Estelle Chrisman Laughlin
815 Penna Street
Gering, Nebraska

My dear Madam:

On July 12, you wrote to me with reference to the Herring family in Virginia. I am just now preparing a story on that branch of the Herring family into which the Lincolns married and it must be ready for the press by the middle of next week. Would you be willing to send me clippings or family records for copying? I would be pleased to return them at once after making such extracts as I need.

I have written several short monographs on the Herring family but this is to be a little more extensive and I believe will cover the ground more thoroughly.

I am very anxious to learn the birthdate of Bathsheba Herring and also the date of her death.

An immediate reply will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

LAW:AD

Director

September 15, 1939

Estelle Chrisman Laughlin
815 Penna. Street
Gering, Nebraska

My dear Madam:

It certainly was very kind of you to reply so promptly to my letter and so fully, and I sincerely appreciate your efforts. I do regret, however, that I did not tell you that I have in my library here memoirs by Chrisman, and also the volume known as the Long Gray Trail by Harrison. In fact, we have assembled practically everything which has been printed about the Lincoln and Herring families.

I have been in hopes that possibly there may have been some family Bible or some items still retained within the Herring family which might give us some light as to the actual parentage of Bersheba or Bathsheba, in order that there might be a very definite confirmation as to her identity.

In the next week or so our bulletin on the Herring family will come out, and we will be pleased indeed to send you a copy.

Thanking you again for your kindness and willingness to cooperate so fully, I am

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

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NORTH CAROLINA
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

COMMISSION.
FRANK PAGE, CHAIRMAN
J. E. CAMERON
J. K. NORFLEET
J. G. STIKELEATHER

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

RALEIGH, N. C.

Harrisonburg Va.
Route 4 Box 162
Sept. 8. 1938

W. S. FALLIS
STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne Ind.
Dear Sir:

I have recently seen a copy of your "Lincoln Lore" of August 1938 in which you seem very uncertain as to the family name of Bathsheba linclon before her marriage.

I have had personal contact with a grand niece of Bathsheba and heard her discuss her aunt a number of times I also have copies of two letters of the ex-president in which he writes of his family as he knew it, these were written from Washington in 1848 while he was in congress. and it seems to me would certainly settle some of the questions asked in your bulletin. If I can help you in any way I will gladly do so.

My wife is a decendent of the Herrings and was raised by the ~~mate~~ of Bathsheba This niece was 94 when she died and I am now seventy so between us we go back some years. If your more recent bulletins have later information will you kindly send me copies.

Your truly W.S.Fallis

W.S. Fallis

NORTH CAROLINA
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
RALEIGH, N. C.

COMMISSION
FRANK PAGE, CHAIRMAN
J. E. CAMERON
J. K. NORFLEET
J. G. STIKELEATHER

W. B. FALLIS
STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER

Dr. Luis A Warren

Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr, Warren:

I am trying to get this off in the return mail after getting your letter and you will kindly excuse both grammar and typing and correct same if you find that you can use the data I enclose.

I have copies of the letters referred to and will be glad to send you copies if you wish.

From my information Abraham was only 26 years old when he married Bathsheba and Bathsheba was two years his senior, this makes it very unlikely that he had married before even if I did not have the positive word of the grand niece that it was his first and only marriage.

I shall be very glad to have a copy of your forthcoming bulletin and shall be glad to give you at any time such information of this family as I can vouch for.

I have understood that Bathsheba was born in 1742 and Abraham in 1744 but have no definite authority for these dates

Yours truly

BERSHEBA HERRING

There has been so many surmises and so many statements made as to the maiden name of the ex-presidents Abraham Lincolns grand mother in Virginia that I am constrained to give the following reasons for naming her family, and then making affidavit to my personal knowledge of the family name.

First-In a list of over three thousand names made at or about the time she left Rockingham County there does not occur, even once, the name Bersheba or Bathsheba or any name that could be mistaken for it, except, this one time in her family.

Second- In the deed made by Abraham and Bersheba, ^{his wife} ~~his wife~~, to ~~one~~ Micheal Shanks dated the 18th of February 1780 fixes the name, Bersheba, as the given name ~~as~~ his wife and it must be remembered that it was seventeen months later before the deed was made legally complete by a commission visiting her at her home to secure her agreement "separate and apart from her husband" as the law required, thus making (Sept. 1781) ^{it} too late in the fall of the year for them to undertake such a journey with small children making it certain that it was the summer of 1782 before they settled in Kentucky.

Third- The numerous Abrahams in the family-- An ^{uncle} ~~uncle~~ of the the presidents grand father married into the Boone family about 1780, his grand fathers brothers, and others perhaps, had Abrahams in their families, it is well known that there were several. Considering the natural desire that men all have for so famous a family connection, it is no wonder that confusion has arisen in regard to the name of the grand mother.

Fourth- there are the letters of the president to his cousin in Rockingham County dated March 28th and April 2nd 1848. These letters were to David Lincoln of Rockingham County and were published in the Century Magazine of November 1887. I quote from them: "There is no longer any doubt that your uncle Abraham and my father was the same man". "My father, Thomas is still living in Coles County, Illinois, being in his seventieth year, I am now in my fortieth year". This proves his grand fathers birth to have been in 1778.

"What was your grand fathers christian name?" "Was he or not a Quaker?" "This is the outline of my fathers family in the west".

It is proven that the grand father's brother John was a leading member of the Baptist denomination by the church records in Rockingham County.

The above reasons are corroborative of my personal knowledge of the name of the Grand fathers wives sir or family name. I am herewith giving a copy of an affidavit that I am filing with the Rockingham County Historical Association.

I, W.S.Fallis, am now in my seventieth year and am of sound mind and memory, and am desirous of making and do make the following statement, under oath, of my knowledge of the maiden name of the wife of Abraham Lincoln the grand father of the president.

Witnesseth: That during my boyhood and for several years after, I was of age I was priviledged to spend much time in the home where lived the grand niece of Bersheba Herring. This niece, an unmarried daughter of Alexander Herring and grand daughter of William Herring, a brother of Bersheba, was Margaret D.Herring who was born in 1810 and was a contemporary of the president.

Being an ardent southerner she had no sympathy of the things, she felt, the president stood for and, I think, formed a personal dislike for him on account of it.

She frequently discussed with me and in my hearing family and their connection and always or most always spoke of the marriage of her aunt Bersheba, or Bathsheba as she called her, and Abraham Lincoln and spoke of opposition of the family to the marriage. This aunt to my certain personal knowledge knew positively that her aunt Bathsheba Herring had married the Abraham Lincoln who became the grand father of the president and that she was the only wife of the grand father,

I havt had the above affidavit attested and filed with the county Historical Association Here

THIS WEEK

September 9, 1938

Mr. W. S. Fallis
Route #4, Box 162
Harrisonburg, Va.

My dear Mr. Fallis:

It is a strange coincidence indeed that I happen to be writing a story on the Herring family just as your letter arrived and as this story is to appear within the next week and a half I would be intensely interested in any information which you may give me with reference to the Herring family or Rockingham County.

Of course, we are familiar with the fact that tradition and folklore claims that Bathsheba's name was Herring but as far as we know there is no document which gives the name Herring as the wife of grandfather Abraham Lincoln. There are many other traditions and pieces of folklore which do give other names of some of the old close relatives in Kentucky which seems to contradict the one in Rockingham County.

Possibly you could answer these questions for me. Who was the father of Bathsheba Herring? Was it Alexander or Leonard? Did Bathsheba Herring have any sisters? How far back can you trace the ancestors of Bathsheba Herring? Was Bathsheba the first or second wife of the pioneer Abraham Lincoln?

We are very much interested in learning as near as we can the exact date of her death as it is variously given, also the date of her birth if that is known.

Any information which you can forward at once will be greatly appreciated and the bulletin which I am writing must go to the press the middle of next week. I will be happy indeed to send you one of the bulletins when it is finished.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director

Lincoln's Ancestry

LEWIS H. CHRISMAN

When Thomas Carlyle characteristically thundered, "Great men are not born among fools," he gave expression to one of the incontrovertible truths of heredity. No matter how humble a man's background, if he possesses unusual natural endowments, he must have had at least one ancestor of outstanding qualities. Abraham Lincoln has been pointed to again and again as a man who overcame the handicaps of a bad heredity. That Lincoln was born in abject poverty cannot be denied. This, though, proves nothing. It can also be taken for granted that his family tree, like that of the rest of us, had some crooked limbs upon it. Lincoln himself was highly interested in his lineage, although he could not definitely trace it farther back than his grandfather, whose four brothers he could also name. In an autobiographical sketch prepared for Jesse W. Fell, December 20, 1859, he spoke of both of his parents being of "undistinguished" or "second families." We now know, however, that on the paternal side of the house Abraham Lincoln was descended from a family of above average standing.

Of his line he was the seventh generation in America. In the study of his ancestry and his biography we can trace the migration of the Lincolns in America from Hingham, Massachusetts, to Springfield, Illinois. These generations of Lincoln lineage are as follows:

First: Samuel Lincoln of Hingham, Mass., born 1619, came to Massachusetts in 1637 and died in 1690.

Second: Mordecai Lincoln, Sr., born 1657 and died 1727.

Third: Mordecai Lincoln, Jr., born 1686 and died in 1736.

Fourth: John Lincoln, born 1711 and died about 1788.

Fifth: Captain Abraham Lincoln, born 1739 and died about 1786.

Sixth: Thomas Lincoln, born 1778 and died 1851.

Seventh: Abraham Lincoln, born 1809 and died 1865.

In discussing his family in his autobiographical sketch for Jesse W. Fell, Lincoln said: "An effort to identify them with the New England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham and the like." Long since the Lincoln line from which the president sprang has been definitely joined with the New England family. Hingham, Massachusetts, is the first important geographical name in the annals of the Lincoln family in America. Samuel Lincoln, the first American ancestor of Abraham Lincoln in the paternal line, was a weaver in Hingham, in the county of Norfolk, England. He left England April 8, 1637, and arrived in Salem, Massachusetts, on June 20. Soon after this he went to Hingham, where he lived for almost fifty-three years. He married before 1650 a woman whose given name was Martha, her surname being unknown. Of their eleven children, the fourth was Mordecai who became an ironmaster. His first wife was Sarah Jones, daughter of Abraham Jones of Hull. It is interesting to note the way the name of Abraham came into the Lincoln family. This brings us to the third generation of

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Lincolns in America and new geographical settings. The oldest child of Mordecai and Sarah Lincoln was Mordecai, Jr. This Mordecai also was an ironmaster, but he did not spend his life in one place. First he and his brother, Abraham, went to Monmouth County, New Jersey. Later he became one of the proprietors of the famous Coventry Forge in Chester County, Pennsylvania. In 1733 he moved to what is now Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, where he died three years later. During his brief stay there he built a substantial stone house, which is still standing. In May, 1860, Abraham Lincoln prepared a sketch of himself using the third person. In it we find these words: "His father, Thomas, and grandfather, Abraham, were born in Rockingham County, Virginia, whither their ancestors had come from Berks County, Pennsylvania. His lineage has been traced no farther back than this. The family were originally Quakers, though in later times they have fallen from the peculiar

habits of that people." This proves beyond a doubt that there was in the Lincoln family a vague tradition that their ancestors had been Quakers, and President Lincoln liked to believe that this opinion was correct. There is, however, no reason for believing that any of the Lincolns in Pennsylvania were affiliated with the Society of Friends.

We know little of this Mordecai, Jr., the president's great-great-grandfather, beyond that which we can glean from court records and similar documents. These show that he was a man of large business activities for his generation. He was twice married, his first wife being Hannah Saltar and his second Mary Robeson. Of his nine children, Sarah married William Boone, the son of a Pennsylvania Quaker family, and his posthumous son, Abraham, married Anne Boone, a member of another branch of this same family, she being a first cousin of Daniel Boone. John, the oldest son of Mordecai, Jr., married Rebecca, whose surname may have been Moore. This John, like his father, was an active business man. From a deed drawn in 1848 we learn that he was a weaver and a resident of the "Township of Carnarvin (Caernarvon) county of Lancaster and Province of Pensylvania."

Again the scene shifts. John Lincoln migrated, as many other Pennsylvanians were doing about the same time, to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. In 1768 he bought 600 acres of land, near the present location of Harrisonburg in Rockingham County. His oldest son, Abraham, was born not in Virginia, as his distinguished namesake supposed, but in Pennsylvania. Of the nine children of John and Rebecca, the youngest only was a native of Virginia. President Lincoln, however, was correct in stating that the

(Continued on page 143)

With Our Writers

W. H. NELSON, Woodland, Cal.; former editor of the *Pacific Methodist Advocate* of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

BRENTON THOBURN BADLEY, Delhi, India; bishop of the Delhi Area, Methodist Episcopal Church.

CHRISTIAN F. REISNER, New York City; pastor Broadway Temple.

LEWIS H. CHRISMAN, Buckhannon, W. Va.; professor of English literature, West Virginia Wesleyan College.

AMELIA H. FOWLER, Cincinnati, Ohio; occasional contributor to *ZIONS HERALD*.

August 25, 1952

Mrs. Stanley Hubbs
5550 Dorchester Ave.
Chicago 37, Illinois

My dear Mrs. Hubbs:

We would be very much pleased indeed to learn whether or not there has ever been any genealogy published on The Herrings family. As you can observe by the attached copy of The Lincoln Kinsman there has been much speculation as to the exact identity of Bathsheba Herring. Any information you may have about the family will be very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Director

L. A. Warren:JK

ack
2/10/70

February 6, 1970
P. O. Box 78
Coatesville, Indiana 46121

The Lincoln National
Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

Gentlemen:

Some time ago I received from your office, a booklet on the Lincoln Kinsman; published September 1938, with a subtitle of The Herrings of Virginia; Searching for facts about Lincoln's paternal Grandmother.

In your booklet there was a question of the authenticity of the data concerning the marriage of Bathsheba Herring to Abraham Lincoln's grandfather, and also the question of whether Bathsheba was Leonard Herring's daughter. In my research of the genealogy of my family, I noticed that there were entries which I assumed you would be interested in. Please notice below.

Alexander Herrin, Married Abigale Harrison, born 1710
d.1780, daughter of Isiah and Abigail (Smith) Lofland, P.58.

Capt. Abraham Lincoln, of Virginia Militia in Revolutionary War, Born 13 May 1744, Pennsylvania. Died May 1786, Ky. Married 9 Jan. 1770, Bathsheba Herring, daughter of Leonard Herring of Rockingham County. (Wilcoxon P. 396) He was the son of Alexander Herring. (Wayland, P. 322) He married only once. (Shelby Co. P. 200)
Herrin?

John Lincoln? Born 1716, Died 1788: Married 1743 to Rebecca (Flowers) Morris: remarried 1768, from Pennsylvania to Augusta County. (Willcoxson, p. 396)

(The above questioning was a supposed error on my copying)

Bethuel Herring born 1760 in Virginia, died 1837; son of Jonathan and Elizabeth(Harrison) (2) Married 1778 to Margaret Irvine born 1760. DAR #82 121

I hope this will help you in your records. I wish to say that I am still having trouble identifying my line.

Yours sincerely,

Elston Herrin

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